



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

**DELTA CONSERVANCY**

*A California State Agency*

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*Central Valley Flood  
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**Mark Wilson**  
*Delta Protection Commission*

February 21, 2014

The Honorable Assembly Member Anthony Rendon  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849, Room 2136  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

Dear Assembly Member Rendon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on AB 1331, the Clean and Safe Drinking Water Act of 2014. As you know, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) was established in 2009 to be a lead agency for ecosystem restoration in the Delta and to support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well being of Delta Residents.

As Chair of the Conservancy Board, and on its behalf, it is gratifying to see serious consideration of Delta needs as listed in Chapter 8 of your legislation. We are concerned, however, about a lack of language in the bill listing criteria by which those funds allocated for Delta projects would be designated. In particular, the Conservancy Board is concerned that there is no language expressing intent to have a balanced disbursement between ecosystem restoration and Delta sustainability, especially agricultural sustainability. Furthermore, while we realize that the legislation purposefully does not designate State agency recipients for bond money, the Board suggests that you consider making an exception for the Conservancy; in the view of many on the Board, doing so would go a long way in building local support for your legislation. In the absence of language designating funds to the Conservancy, we believe criteria for disbursement should include strong preference for organizations that have participation of local interests in guiding project decisions.

In the three years the Conservancy has been in existence, it has accomplished much with very little funds. In addition to launching a well-received Delta branding and marketing project, the Conservancy has partnered with many local groups and governments to establish water quality projects and environmental education projects throughout the Delta. These collaborative efforts have built a relationship with the Delta residents based on trust and transparency, which is critical for any future support for bond-funded projects.



The Conservancy Board, listed on the side bar, provides much needed local input into project development, evaluation, and funding decisions. This local input is invaluable in gaining local support for the Delta-related efforts listed in AB 1331. We hope that you will consider carefully the above-mentioned concerns, and how members of the Conservancy Board may be able to assist in developing additional language to address those concerns.

Thank you again for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Ken Vogel, Supervisor San Joaquin County  
Delta Conservancy Board Chair



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February 21, 2014

The Honorable Senator Lois Wolk  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849, Room 2136  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

Dear Senator Wolk,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 848, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Water Supply Act of 2014. As you know, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) was established in 2009 to be a lead agency for ecosystem restoration in the Delta and to support efforts that advance environmental protection and the economic well being of Delta Residents.

As Chair of the Conservancy Board, and on its behalf, it is gratifying to see serious consideration of Delta needs as listed in Chapter 6 of your legislation, and especially of your consideration in allocating \$800,000 to the Conservancy for specified projects.

We are concerned, however, that current language identifying \$500 million for water quality and habitat restoration, does not specifically designate the remainder of \$300 million for preserving economically viable and sustainable agriculture and other economic activities in the Delta. The Conservancy Board suggests that you consider adding language that would clarify the split between water quality, restoration and Delta sustainability. In the view of many on the Board, doing so would go a long way in building local support for your legislation.

In the three years the Conservancy has been in existence, it has accomplished much with very little funds. In addition to launching a well-received Delta branding and marketing project, the Conservancy has partnered with many local groups and governments to establish water quality projects and environmental education projects throughout the Delta. These collaborative efforts have built a relationship with the Delta residents based on trust and transparency, which is critical for any future support for bond-funded projects.



The Conservancy Board, listed on the side bar, provides much needed local input into project development, evaluation, and funding decisions. This local input is invaluable in gaining local support for the Delta-related efforts listed in SB 848. We hope that you will consider carefully the above-mentioned concerns, and how members of the Conservancy Board may be able to assist in developing additional language to address those concerns.

Thank you again for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Ken Vogel, Supervisor San Joaquin County  
Delta Conservancy Board Chair

